

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace ¶ [0025] with the following:

[0025] According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an accompanying metal mesh belt 15 is associated with at least one of the steel belts 4 or 5 (the upper steel belt 5, as shown in the drawing). The metal mesh belt 15 comprises a material of greater thermal conductivity than the steel belt 4 or 5. The steel belt 4 or 5 and the accompanying metal mesh belt 15 are returned together through an insulating isolating tunnel 16 in order to prevent loss due to thermal radiation and to save energy. The metal mesh belt 15 is heated in a heating tunnel 18, before it enters the press gap 11, to a temperature higher than that of the corresponding steel belt 4 or 5 at the entrance to the press gap 11. In the heating tunnel 18 the metal mesh belt 15 is carried over a lower heating plate 24 with which an upper heating plate 21 may also be associated. The preheating of the metal mesh belt 15 can also be performed by means of a heating roll 20, in which case preferably the last guide pulley 17 ahead of the entrance to the press gap 11 is made to be a heating roll 20. In another embodiment of the present invention, the metal mesh belt 15 may be constantly cleaned by a cleaning brush with an air blast bar and exhaust.